

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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SHENIA DANCY-STEWART as Administratrix)	Civil Action COURT
of the Estate of EVELINE BARROS-CEPEDA,)	Docket No. 05-1803MLW
MARIA DaROSA and LUIS CARVALHO)	
Plaintiffs)	
)	
v.)	PLAINTIFFS' SECOND
THOMAS TAYLOR, Jr., and the)	AMENDED COMPLAINT
CITY OF BOSTON)	AND JURY TRIAL DEMAND
Defendants)	
)	

INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action for monetary damages brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§1983 and 1988 and the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution against Thomas Taylor, Jr., (hereinafter, "Officer Taylor"), a police officer of the City of Boston, in his individual capacity and against the City of Boston. Jurisdiction is founded upon 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1343 and on the pendent jurisdiction of this Court to entertain claims arising under state law.

2.. It is alleged that Officer Taylor shot and killed Eveline Barros-Cepeda without legal cause or excuse and made an unreasonable seizure of her person and the person of Luis Carvalho and Maria DaRosa, violating their rights under the Fourth Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article XIV of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights. It is further alleged that these violations were committed as a result of policies and customs of the City of Boston.

PARTIES

3. Eveline Barros-Cepeda, (hereinafter, Ms. Barros-Cepeda) was a black Cape Verdian who, at all times material to this complaint, lived in Dorchester, Massachusetts with her mother,

Domingas DePina.. Ms. Barros-Cepeda was only twenty-five years old when she was shot and killed by Defendant Officer Taylor. She left behind her husband, Carlos Cepeda and her two year old son, Nazee Barros-Cepeda. Domingas DePina, her mother, sought to be and was subsequently appointed legal guardian of Nazee Barros-Cepeda. She has been caring for him since he lost his mother.

4. Plaintiff, Shenia Dancy-Stewart, (hereinafter, "Ms. Dancy-Stewart") is the Administratrix of the Estate of Ms. Barros-Cepeda by appointment of the Suffolk Probate & Family Court.

5. Plaintiff, Maria DaRosa (hereinafter, "Ms. DaRosa") is a black Cape Verdian and, at all times material to this complaint, a resident of Dorchester, Massachusetts.

6 Plaintiff, Luis Carvalho (hereinafter, "Mr. Carvalho") is a black Cape Verdian, and, at all times material to this complaint, a resident of Dorchester, Massachusetts.

7 Defendant, Thomas Taylor, Jr., (hereinafter, "Officer Taylor") is and was, at all times material to this complaint, a duly appointed and acting police officer of the police department of the City of Boston, acting under color of law, to wit, under color of the statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies, customs and usages of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and/or the City of Boston..

8 Defendant, City of Boston, is a municipal corporation, duly organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and located in Suffolk County. The City of Boston is the public employer of Defendant Officer Taylor.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

9 On September 8, 2002, at around 12:30 A.M., Ms. Barros-Cepeda, Ms. DaRosa and Mr. Carvalho were passengers in the rear seat of a motor vehicle being operated on Dunkel Street towards Fayston Street in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

10. At that same time, Officer Taylor was on foot at the intersection of Dunkel and Fayston Street.

11. When the motor vehicle turned onto Fayston Street, Defendant Officer Taylor temporarily lost sight of a fellow police officer who had been standing across the street from him. Without first doing anything to verify that the other police officer had been or was being injured by the motor vehicle, Defendant Officer Taylor drew his service revolver and shot at least three bullets in the general direction of the vehicle and its operator.

12. Defendant Officer Taylor's firing at the operator and the motor vehicle under the circumstances violated the then-existing policies of the City of Boston police department on the use of deadly force.

13. There was no threat to Defendant Officer Taylor's life or safety from either the vehicle or its occupants.

14. Defendant Officer Taylor had no knowledge of and did not observe anything that would lead him to believe that anyone in the vehicle was armed or dangerous.

15. Defendant Officer Taylor had no prior knowledge and did not observe anything that would lead him to believe that anyone in the vehicle had been or was presently involved in any criminal wrongdoing.

16. Defendant Officer Taylor knew or should have known that he had little or no likelihood of hitting the driver or otherwise bringing the vehicle to a stop by shooting at it and a strong likelihood of causing injury or death to its passengers, bystanders and building residents.

17. One bullet passed through both the vehicle and Ms. Barros-Cepeda's body but did not immediately kill her. She was subsequently pronounced dead at the hospital. A copy of the death certificate is annexed hereto as "Exhibit A".

18.. While Defendant Officer Taylor's bullets were striking and passing through the motor vehicle, Mr. Carvalho and Ms. DaRosa opened the rear passenger doors and jumped out while it was moving rather than risk being killed or seriously injured by gunfire.

19. As a direct and proximate result of the acts of Defendant Officer Taylor, Ms. Barros-Cepeda suffered the following injuries and damages:

- a) Violation of her constitutional rights under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution to be free from an unreasonable seizure of her person;
- b) Loss of her life;
- c) Physical pain and suffering and emotional trauma and suffering.
- d) Funeral expenses.

20. As a direct and proximate result of the said acts of Defendant Officer Taylor, Mr. Carvalho and Ms. DaRosa suffered the following injuries and damages:

- a) Violation of their constitutional rights under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution to be free from an unreasonable seizure of their person;
- b) Physical pain and suffering and emotional trauma and suffering requiring the expenditure of money for treatment.

21. Nazee Barros-Cepeda has suffered the untimely end of his relationship with his mother, with the corresponding loss of her love, care, affection, nurturing, companionship guidance, advice, assistance and financial and emotional support.

22. Carlos Cepeda has suffered the untimely end of his relationship with his spouse, with the corresponding loss of her services, affection, assistance, society, companionship, comfort, advice and guidance.

23. The actions of Defendant Officer Taylor violated the following clearly established and

well settled federal constitutional rights of Ms. Barros-Cepeda; Mr. Carvalho and Ms. DaRosa:

- a) Freedom from the unreasonable seizure of their person.

COUNT I 42 U.S.C. §1983 - WRONGFUL DEATH – Officer Taylor

24. Paragraphs 1–23 are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.

25. Plaintiff, Ms. Dancy-Stewart, claims damages against defendant Officer Taylor for the Estate of Ms. Barros-Cepeda for her wrongful death and for the loss of her income, services, protection, care, assistance, society, companionship, comfort, guidance, counsel and advice and for funeral expenses under 42 U.S.C. §1983.

COUNT II 42 U.S.C. §1983 - SURVIVAL ACTION – Officer Taylor

26. Paragraphs 1–25 are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.

27. Ms. Barros-Cepeda was forced to endure great conscious pain and suffering and to incur expenses for the medical treatment she received prior to her death.

28. Ms. Barros-Cepeda filed no action during her lifetime, but under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, this action survives and may be asserted by her Estate.

29. Plaintiff, Ms. Dancy-Stewart, claims damages against Officer Taylor for the conscious pain and suffering and necessary medical expenses incurred by Eveline Barros-Cepeda, under 42 U.S.C. §1983.

COUNT III 42 U.S.C. §1983 – UNREASONABLE SEIZURE – Officer Taylor

30. Paragraphs 1–29 are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.

31. Plaintiffs Mr. Carvalho and Ms. DaRosa claim damages against defendant Officer Taylor for their physical pain and emotional trauma and for expenses they incurred for medical treatment they received as a result thereof.

COUNT IV 42 U.S.C. §1983 – MUNICIPAL LIABILITY – City of Boston

32. Paragraphs 1–31 are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.
33. Prior to September 8, 2002, the City of Boston developed and maintained policies or customs exhibiting deliberate indifference to the constitutional rights of persons in Boston, which caused the violation of Ms. Barros-Cepeda's, Mr. Carvalho's and Ms. DaRosa's rights.
34. It was the policy and/or custom of the City of Boston to inadequately and improperly investigate citizen complaints of police misconduct, and acts of misconduct were instead tolerated by the City of Boston, including but not limited to the unlawful, unreasonable and unjustified stopping of moving vehicles by shooting at them and the people inside them.
35. It was the policy and/or custom of the City of Boston to inadequately supervise and train its police officers, including the Defendant Taylor, thereby failing to adequately discourage further constitutional violations on the part of its police officers. The City did not require appropriate in-service training or re-training of officers who were known to have engaged in police misconduct.
36. As a result of the policies and customs, police officers of the City of Boston, including the Defendant Taylor, believed that their actions would not be properly monitored by supervisory officers and that misconduct would not be investigated or sanctioned, but would be tolerated.
37. A Suffolk County Grand Jury returned no indictment against Defendant Officer Taylor for the unjustified, unlawful killing of Ms. Barros-Cepeda and he was neither disciplined nor ordered to receive additional training in the discharge of firearms. In fact, in a press conference following the Grand Jury investigation, Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel Conley blamed the “unfortunate” death of Ms. Barros-Cepeda on the operator of the motor vehicle. Shortly

thereafter, however, Boston Police Commissioner Paul Evans announced a change in the policy of the Boston Police Department regarding the discharge of firearms at moving vehicles.

38. The aforementioned policies and customs demonstrated a deliberate indifference on the part of policymakers of the City of Boston to the constitutional rights of persons within the City, and were the cause of the violations of Ms. Barros-Cepeda, Mr. Carvalho and Ms. DaRosa alleged herein.

COUNT V – VIOLATION OF M.G.L. c.229 – WRONGFUL DEATH – Officer Taylor

39. Paragraphs 1–38 are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.

49. Defendant Officer Taylor's shooting at the moving vehicle was deliberate and willful and in total disregard for the lives and safety of any of the passengers within it.

41. As a direct and proximate result thereof, Ms. Barros-Cepeda suffered the loss of her life.

42. Plaintiff, Ms. Dancy-Stewart, claims damages against defendant Officer Taylor for the Estate of Ms. Barros-Cepeda for her wrongful death and for the loss of her income, services, protection, care, assistance, society, companionship, comfort, guidance, counsel and advice and for funeral expenses.

COUNT VI SURVIVAL ACTION – City of Boston

43. Paragraphs 1–42 are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.

44. Ms. Barros-Cepeda was forced to endure great conscious pain and suffering and to incur expenses for the medical treatment she received prior to her death.

45. Ms. Barros-Cepeda filed no action during her lifetime, but under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, this action survives and may be asserted by her Estate.

46. Plaintiff, Ms. Dancy-Stewart, claims damages against the defendant City of Boston for

the conscious pain and suffering and necessary medical expenses incurred by Ms. Barros-Cepeda.

COUNT VII SURVIVAL ACTION – Officer Taylor

47. Paragraphs 1–46 are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.
48. Ms. Barros-Cepeda was forced to endure great conscious pain and suffering and to incur expenses for the medical treatment she received prior to her death.
49. Ms. Barros-Cepeda filed no action during her lifetime, but under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, this action survives and may be asserted by her Estate.
50. Plaintiff, Ms. Dancy-Stewar;, claims damages against the defendant Officer Taylor for the conscious pain and suffering and necessary medical expenses incurred by Ms. Barros-Cepeda.

COUNT VIII – GROSS NEGLIGENCE - Officer Taylor

51. Paragraphs 1–50 are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.
52. Defendant Officer Taylor’s conduct was deliberate and willful and was the direct and proximate cause of the injuries suffered by plaintiffs Mr. Carvalho and Ms. DaRosa.
53. Plaintiffs, Mr. Carvalho and Ms. DaRosa claim damages against defendant Officer Taylor for their physical pain and emotional trauma and for expenses they incurred for medical treatment they received as a result thereof.

COUNT IX – NEGLIGENCE – City of Boston

- 54 Paragraphs 1-53 are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.
55. Defendant Officer Taylor’s conduct was negligent and was the proximate cause of the

injuries suffered by plaintiffs Mr. Carvalho and Ms. DaRosa.

56. At the time of the shooting, defendant Officer Taylor was an employee of the City of Boston police department and was acting during the course and within the scope of his employment.

57. Plaintiffs, Mr. Carvalho and Ms. DaRosa claim damages against defendant City of Boston for their physical pain and emotional trauma and for expenses they incurred for medical treatment they received as a result thereof.

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COUNT X- INFILCTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS – Officer Taylor

58. Paragraphs 1–57 are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.

59. Defendant Officer Taylor's shooting at the vehicle and its occupants was intentional, deliberate and willful and was extreme, outrageous and intolerable in a civilized society.

60. As a direct and proximate result thereof, plaintiffs, Mr. Carvalho and Ms. DaRosa suffered severe emotional distress and mental anguish and were otherwise greatly damaged.

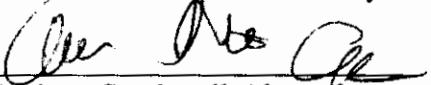
PRAYER FOR RELIEF

The Plaintiffs pray that this Honorable Court:

- a) Enter judgment in their favor on each and every count of this Complaint, and,
- b) Award them compensatory damages, and;
- c) Award punitive damages against defendant Officer Taylor; and;
- d) Award them the costs of this action, including reasonable attorney fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988 and M.G.L. c. 12, §111, and,
- e) Award costs and interest, and;
- f) Award such other and further relief as this Court may deem appropriate.

THE PLAINTIFFS DEMAND A JURY TRIAL ON ALL ISSUES SO TRIABLE.

Respectfully submitted,
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